(b) if so, whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) was to rework the arrangements as clarified by the Hon'ble judges; and

(c) the details of the revised arrangements for the introduction of CPP regime ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Hon'ble High Court had struck down the regulation and stayed the implementation of the CPP regime contained in the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Interconnection (Charges and Revenue Sharing—First Amendment) Order, 1999 (3 of 99) dated 17th September, 1999.

(b) In its order, the Hon'ble Court had, *inter alia*, mentioned the following :

"The Authority may consider whether the CPP regime or a free incoming call regime can be introduced within the terms and conditions of the existing licences and within the policy as framed by the Government".

(c) Government has since amended the relevant licence condition which has cleared the way for implementation of CPP regime. TRAI had issued a consultation paper which discussed the desirability of the scheme or otherwise, tariff-related and technical issues related to CPP. The consultation process has not been completed as yet. TRAI will take a view on the matter, after completion of the consultation process in due course.

Restriction on number of operators in International Communication Services

†2600. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any recommendation has been made to restrict the number of Operators engaged in International Communication Services so that competitive atmosphere may be created to render better facilities;

(b) if so, Government's reaction in this regard; and

(c) the extent to which business and earnings of Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited is likely to be affected on account of this policy ?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) There could be some loss of market share of VSNL initially when the international communication service is opened to other operators.

Upgradation of Branch Post Offices in Assam

2601. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to upgrade branch Post Offices in Assam; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise and category-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) There is a target of opening of 2 Departmental Sub Post Offices in Assam Circle in the year 2001-2002 which includes Departmental Sub Post Offices to be opened through upgradation also. There is a proposal to upgrade Gerukamukh branch Post Office in Dhemaji District to Sub Post Office, subject to availability of resources.

Clearance of telephone waiting list in Rajasthan

2602. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the answers to Unstarred Questions 1738 and 1622 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 8th August and 5th December, 2000 respectively, and state :

(a) whether the two applicants wait-listed for new telephone connections one each in village Norangpur and Noranpura Bas in Tehsil Mahwa, Dausa District of Rajasthan are still waiting for connections and no action has been taken by the authorities in this regard;

(b) whether despite letters by Members of Parliament to give telephone connections from their own quota no action has been taken in this regard; and